

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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The Breakup of A-76 Continues

25MAY2023, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg A-76J calved from A-76F and icebergs A-76K and A-76L have calved from iceberg A-76A in the northern Weddell Sea. The calving event was first spotted on MODIS imagery as early as May 21. As of May 24, the icebergs were centered at the locations specified in table 1 below. A-76 first calved from the Ronne Ice Shelf in May 2021. The locations of A-76A through A-76H are still being tracked by the USNIC; however, A-76I broke up and became too small to track on 16 May.

Name	Latitude	Longitude	Length	Width
A-76A	54° 56' S	38° 54' W	42 NM	6 NM
A-76F	55° 12' S	39° 18' W	47 NM	5 NM
A-76J	54° 08' S	39° 46' W	17 NM	3 NM
A-76K	54° 36' S	38° 37' W	10 NM	3 NM
A-76L	55° 05' S	38° 52' W	17 NM	2 NM

Table 1

The new icebergs were first spotted by Dr. Klaus Strübing, former director and professor at the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany (BSH), and Dr. Jan Lieser of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology; they were confirmed by USNIC Analyst Katherine Quinn using the MODIS image below.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally calved. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

- A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)
- B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)
- C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)
- D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by USNIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, C-19 is sequentially the 19th iceberg tracked by USNIC in Antarctica between 180-90E (Quadrant C). Icebergs with letter suffixes have calved from already named icebergs, where the letters are

added in sequential order. For example, C-19D is the 4th iceberg to calve off the original C-19 iceberg.

Iceberg positions are analyzed weekly and are available on the USNIC webpage at: <https://usicecenter.gov/Products/AntarcIcebergs>

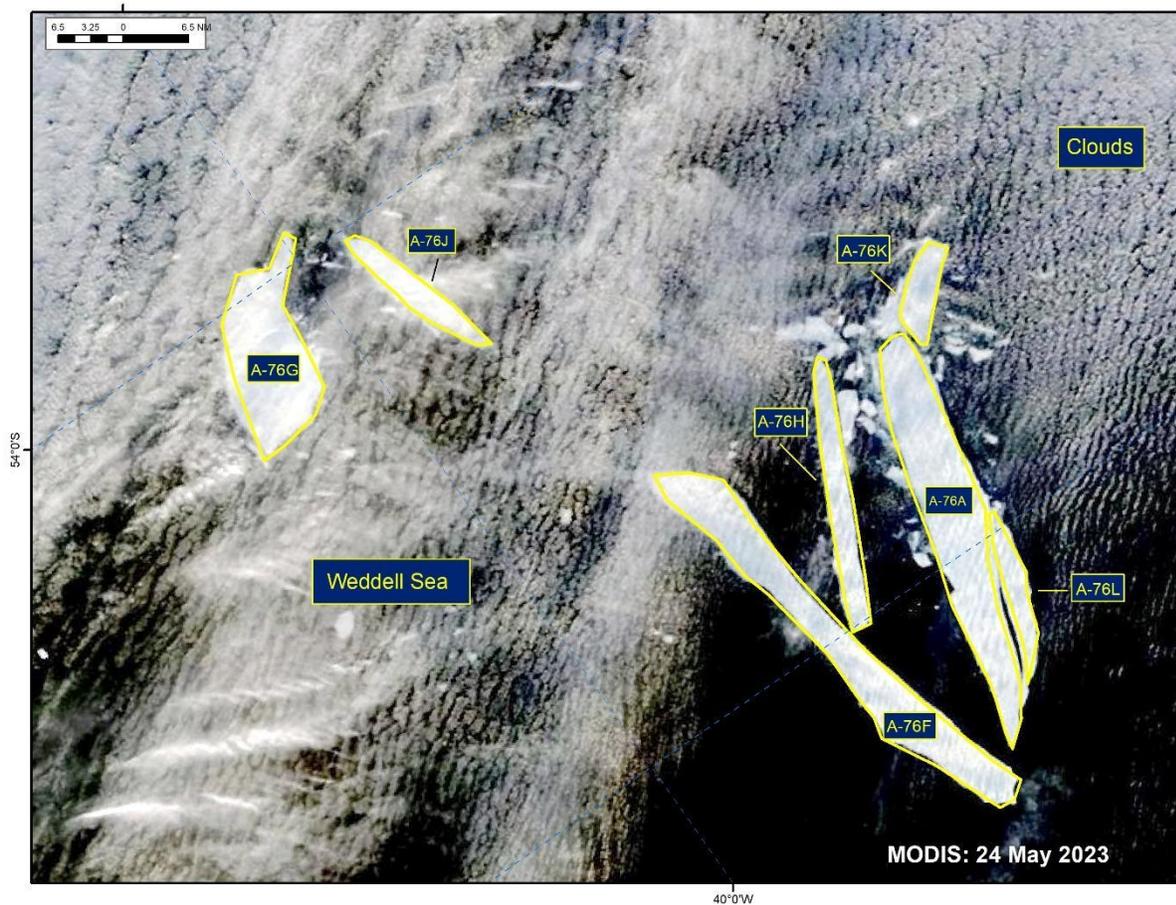


Figure 1: MODIS image of A-76A, A-76F, A-76G, A-76H, A-76J, A-76K, and A-76L from May 24, 2023.

USNIC is a multi-agency center—subordinate to Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command—operated by the Navy, NOAA, and Coast Guard which provides global to tactical scale ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and related environmental intelligence services for the United States government.

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command directs and oversees more than 2,500 globally-distributed military and civilian personnel who collect, process, and exploit environmental information to assist Fleet and Joint Commanders in all warfare areas to make better decisions faster than the adversary.

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